

CLAIMS

1. A user interface for assisting the user in performing a task and shielding the user from complex data, the user interface including a window on a computer screen comprising:
 - a first pane for displaying instructions to a user regarding the task;
 - a second pane for displaying a content form and receiving the user's input into the content form, wherein the content form displays only a subset of the available data objects relating to the task; and
 - a third pane for displaying actions related to the task.
2. The user interface of claim 1, further comprising a fourth pane for displaying one or more core functions and receiving the user's selection of core functions.
3. The user interface of claim 1, wherein the second pane displays only a read-only list of data.
4. The user interface of claim 1, wherein the content form of the second pane is pre-filled upon display of the content form and prior to the user entering any data.
5. The user interface of claim 1, wherein the related activities in the third pane are secondary activities that are related to the task.
6. The user interface of claim 5, wherein the third pane is also for receiving user selection of one of the secondary activities.
7. The user interface of claim 6, wherein the user interface launches the secondary activity received from the user.
8. The user interface of claim 5, wherein the secondary activities include links to structured data.
9. The user interface of claim 5, wherein the secondary activities include links to unstructured data.

10. The user interface of claim 5, wherein the secondary activities include links to communications tools.

11. A method of providing a user interface for assisting a user in performing a task and shielding the user from the complexity of the task, comprising:

providing a window having:

a first pane for displaying instructions to a user regarding the task;

a second pane for displaying a content form and receiving the user's input into the content form, wherein the content form only displays a subset of the data objects relating to the task; and

a third pane for displaying actions related to the task.

12. The method of claim 11, further providing the window with a fourth pane for displaying one or more core functions and receiving the user's selection of core functions.

13. The method of claim 11, further providing second pane of the window with only a read-only list of data.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein the content form of the second pane is pre-filled upon display of the content form and prior to the user entering any data.

15. The method of claim 11, wherein the related activities in the third pane are secondary activities that are related to the task.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the third pane is also for receiving user selection of one of the secondary activities.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the user interface launches the secondary activity received from the user.

18. The method of claim 15, wherein the secondary activities include links to structured data.

19. The method of claim 15, wherein the secondary activities include links to unstructured data.

20. The method of claim 15, wherein the secondary activities include links to communications tools.

21. A computer readable medium comprising instructions, the execution of which causes a computer to provide a window having:

a first pane for displaying instructions to a user regarding the task;

a second pane for displaying a content form and receiving the user's input into the content form, wherein the content form displays only a subset of the available data objects relating to the task; and

a third pane for displaying actions related to the task.